

RICKARDS' QUEER RULING.

He Overrides Forms, Law, Precedents, Everything to Carry Out an Outrage.

High Handed Proceedings to Comsume the Final Plans of a Conspiracy.

Of Course it Was Not Done Without the Assistance of Old Fire Eater Fisher.

The intention of the republican conspirators to bring about a joint convention between the republican senators and the rump house took substantial form yesterday. Driven to desperation in their search for means to reach this end they went through a proceeding unparalleled in the history of legislative bodies. Not only were all forms of law and parliamentary procedure set at defiance, but a determined spirit was shown that is nothing short of revolution itself. When seven men in a legislative body of fourteen can dictate the movements of the entire assembly, it is time for the citizens of this state to enquire if law has a meaning or if it is to be thrown aside at the pleasure of reckless men seeking to carry out their purposes by illegal means. The action of the republican senators yesterday is in marked contrast with previous movements of the conspirators. The appearance of legality thrown over the lieutenant-governor's decision was remarkable for its utter failure to show the slightest legal or parliamentary excuse for his action. When asked for authority or precedents for his decision Lieutenant-Governor Rickards declined to be interviewed. The reason for this reticence is the fact that he could make no reasonable showing of his case. His nervous manner during the entire session indicated that he fully realized his encroachment on dangerous and revolutionary ground. The most surprising fact of the whole business is that a man so fair minded as Mr. Rickards is supposed to be, could be induced to take a leading part in such a party as Fisher's. He simply showed him that he was no better or no less unscrupulous than the conspirators who have made use of him. When a man can twist his conscience to fit a decision so high-handed as that of Rickards, his next move becomes entirely a matter of speculation. The only report we have had to date concerning his part in the proceeding was from Fisher. He was so rattled at times that he could not make intelligible statements. His hand trembled when he quoted in a drolling way an alleged precedent to his resolution. He knows as much about parliamentary law as a cow about playing a violin, but when he can gather up the nerve to show his vindictiveness he is a perfect fiend. He has constituted himself a leader of the republican side and no one seems to dispute his position, though it is apparent that his colleagues regard him as a subject for ridicule and contempt. The proceedings this morning were not unexpected though no one knew what form the business would take. From the way things were going on it will be may properly be assumed that everything had been carefully planned even to reversal.

When the lieutenant-governor's fist came down on the desk at five minutes past two o'clock yesterday afternoon all senators were present except Messrs. Brown and McNamea, who had paired. The majority of the senators voted for the bill, and those who had come in anticipation of what was to follow. Senator Hedges opened the ball by moving that the senate in compliance with the constitution proceed to the election of officers. After Fisher had seconded the motion Baker quickly arose to his feet and called for the ayes and nays. Rickards said, "In the absence of any rules of this body it is not necessary to call the ayes and nays." This outrageous decision brought Senator Parberry to his feet. He quoted section 10 article 5 of the constitution, which reads: "A majority of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business, etc." The lieutenant-governor insisted on calling the ayes and nays after the organization, but I shall rule that it is not necessary to call the ayes and nays. A vote was taken, seven republican votes being cast, but none from the democratic side. By this time it had become known what was going on, and the lobby and gallery became suddenly filled with spectators. The house adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning.

He tried to use this as a precedent, though it clearly could not be used as such with any propriety.

Senator Baker then said: "If this is not a high-handed, revolutionary and unheard of proposition, it is not my good fortune to have heard of one. If it is, then I can assure you that it is a cold-blooded affair. One or two men can do this work in this body as justly as seven men can do it. I have had assurances that no political advantages would be taken here. Mr. Baker spoke warmly in favor of the choice of Mr. Olds for president pro tempore of the senate. After offering this resolution he said: "It is a bad resolution." He said "I do not think the gentlemen on the other side are quite ready for it, and I hope the gentlemen on the other side, out of courtesy, will not favor it. It looks to me like a pretty severe case of snap judgment. It is a bad resolution." The irresponsible Fisher floated up again. He said: "The gentlemen forget that we have no rules and the gentlemen have refused to establish rules. Emergencies of this kind arise every day. The old fire eater then went into a senseless drivel about difficulties in corporations which had no bearing. A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Thompson that the resolution be referred to a committee. This was defeated by a voice vote by seven to six, Senator Parberry not voting. The resolution was then declared passed upon the seven votes of the republicans, the democrats refusing to vote. The majority of the democratic senators then left the room, a few going a mile and a half away. The lobby was then filled with interested onlookers until the senate was adjourned. The remainder of the session was devoted to the election of attaches and officers of the senate. There was no opposition to the candidates named. Frederick Gilbert was elected chairman, J. F. Kelly, sergeant-at-arms, John Thompson, of Silver Bow, was chosen clerk and Robert Jackson watchman. Woodman and Robert Jackson watchman. Woodman Paynter will be the page.

The lieutenant-governor then read section four, article five, of the state constitution relative to the classification of the senators and the number changing to a short term and the long term senators. He thought the matter ought to be attended to. The uneasy tongue of Fisher flew about for a few minutes the substance of his remarks being that he had a resolution to cover the matter referred to. He ventured the opinion that the house was ready for business. The resolution was read. It simply provided that the numbers of the senatorial districts should be shaken up in a hat. If an even number was drawn first the senators from the even numbered districts should hold the short terms. Hedges moved the adoption of the resolution which had been seconded by Fisher. After Parberry had voted for it, the resolution met with the full spirit of the house there should be no hesitation in giving it cordial reception. To carry out the plan suggested for drawing the numbers the lieutenant-governor appointed a committee of three to be appointed by the president of the senate to wait upon the house of representatives and inform them that the senate is now fully organized and ready for the transaction of business.

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After the resolution was read Babcock introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the president of the senate to wait upon the house of representatives and inform them that the senate is now fully organized and ready for the transaction of business.

Fisher moved that a committee of three be appointed to join with the committee from the house to wait upon the governor and inform him that the house was ready for business. This was carried. Hedges' motion that a committee on rules be appointed was carried. The lieutenant-governor, who was anxious to get the business done, moved, appointed Hedges, Hoffman, Fisher, Parberry and Brown as a committee on rules. Messrs. Thomas, Babcock and Rutherford were appointed as a committee to wait on the house, and Messrs. Hedges, Redd and Baker to wait upon the governor. Messrs. Thompson, Rutherford and Thornton were named as a committee on credentials. Upon motion of Hedges the house then adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning.

THE JOYOUS RUMPS.

The News from the Senate Makes the Main Streets Very Happy.

Early in the forenoon of yesterday every thing gave indication that something to cause the republicans much joy was about to take place. Confirmation of this came later in the forenoon when it was stated in the republican house at the Granite block that a suit had been commenced in the name of the state on the relation of William H. Roberts, who holds a certificate from the state canvassing board to the effect that he was elected last October a member of the state legislature. That the suit was to be brought was evidently known by the rumps and it had a bracing effect on them.

When they met yesterday forenoon there was no quorum present. Roberts moved a call of the house but further proceedings under the call were dispensed with and the absent excused.

Notices of bills were then given as follows: A bill providing for the amendment to a note of the electors of the state of my amendment to the constitution, fixing the terms of county commissioners; to provide guards or screens at heads of canals and water ditches, and fish ladders at all dams; to amend the compiled statutes relating to rights of married women.

The printing committee recommended that the bill be sent to the printer, but in lieu thereof certified copies. It became necessary to take a recess, and at 4 p.m., they were all in their seats, the atmosphere being heavy with expectation. The speaker was on his feet, gavel in hand, about to recognize a member of the house. The doorkeeper rushed to the rail and in a tremulous voice announced to the speaker: "Mr. Speaker: A committee from the honorable senate." A gentle patter of feet commenced in one corner of the hall and rapidly grew into a roar. The speaker was unable to be heard, difficulty in suppressing. The committee were escorted to seats on the floor and the page brought an envelope to the speaker. It was quickly torn open and the chief clerk read the following communication:

Senate Chamber, Helena, Montana, Dec. 19, 1889.

To the speaker and members of the house of representatives:

We, a committee appointed by the senate of the state of Montana, beg leave to inform your honorable body that the first senate of the state of Montana is duly organized by the election of the following named officers:

President, Hon. L. B. Olds; secretary, Frederick Gilbert; engrossing clerk, Pierce Kelly; sergeant-at-arms, M. McGuirk; chaplain, Rev. G. K. Berry; watchman, Robert Jackson; page, Woodman Paynter.

The senate now being fully organized, is ready for the transaction of legislative business.

BABCOCK,
THOMPSON,
RUTHERFORD.

Cory was the first man on his feet and moved for a recess of five minutes. He said he wanted to shake hands with

committee. This was carried with a shout and a rush made for the committee, who were surrounded by a large number and a strong mass of members, all eager to see the committee from the senate. Every one soon had a cigar, the room was full of smoke and the loud hum of conversation mingled with triumphant laughter. The thing was so sudden that the public seemed to have no notification of it for only two spectators were seen in the lobby, and the rest of the house was in darkness.

At 7:30 p.m. they met again, and the first motion made was that when an adjournment should be had, it be until 11 this morning. This was done to give the committee appointed to wait on the governor further time to report. If the committee did not see him last night it was expected he would be home from it this morning.

Now came a wild rush to get a bill

through which had been reported upon favorably by the judiciary and federal relations committee. The bill proposes to establish four terms of court in each year for the supreme court. The main intention with which the bill was introduced is to provide more ample legislation to serve this. The terms are to commence on the first day of the months of January, April, June and October. The necessity for this legislation is claimed to be the pending suit of Roberts in the district court here, and the Silver Bow judgeship question, both of which are to be taken before the supreme court. It was no opposition to the candidates named. There was no opposition to the candidates named. Frederick Gilbert was elected engrossing clerk and J. F. Kelly, sergeant-at-arms. George Berry was elected chaplain and Robert Jackson watchman. Woodman and Robert Jackson watchman. Woodman Paynter will be the page.

The lieutenant-governor then read section four, article five, of the state constitution relative to the classification of the senators and the number changing to a short term and the long term senators. He thought the matter ought to be attended to. The uneasy tongue of Fisher flew about for a few minutes the substance of his remarks being that he had a resolution to cover the matter referred to. He ventured the opinion that the house was ready for business. The resolution was read. It simply provided that the numbers of the senatorial districts should be shaken up in a hat. If an even number was drawn first the senators from the even numbered districts should hold the short terms. Hedges moved the adoption of the resolution which had been seconded by Fisher. After Parberry had voted for it, the resolution was then carried. Hedges thought that as the resolution met with the full spirit of the house there should be no hesitation in giving it cordial reception. To carry out the plan suggested for drawing the numbers the lieutenant-governor appointed a committee of three to be appointed by the president of the senate to wait upon the house of representatives and inform them that the senate is now fully organized and ready for the transaction of business.

For the short term, Senators, Armstrong, Baker, McNamea, Fisher, Olds, Hennessy, Rutherford and Babcock. For the long term, Senators, Brown, Redd, Becker, Thornton, Hoffman, Hedges, Olds, Parberry and Thompson. It thus appears that there are five republican and three democratic short term senators.

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This was carried. Hedges' motion that a committee on rules be appointed was carried. The lieutenant-governor, who was anxious to get the business done, moved, appointed Hedges, Hoffman, Fisher, Parberry and Brown as a committee on rules. Messrs. Thomas, Babcock and Rutherford were appointed as a committee to wait on the house, and Messrs. Hedges, Redd and Baker to wait upon the governor. Messrs. Thompson, Rutherford and Thornton were named as a committee on credentials. Upon motion of Hedges the house then adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The house met at the usual hour yesterday, but no quorum was present. A recess was taken until 2 p.m. At that hour another recess was taken during which a caucus was held. The house, without the transaction of any business, then adjourned until 10 a.m. to-day.

ATTENTION, SELECT KNIGHTS, A. O. U. W.

A regular assembly of Montanan Legion No. 1, Select Knights, convened at their hall in Old Fallon Temple, every Friday night at 7:30 o'clock sharp. Comrades of sister legions are cordially invited to attend.

C. A. DONNELLY, Select Commander.

N. P. WALFERS, Recorder.

On Broadway

14 Fine Lots,
3 Choice Corners,
Residence Lots,
Business Sites,
Acre Property.

We can sell you grounds in any part of the City Adapted to your wants and means, for Reasonable Prices and Easy Terms.

Large List of Houses for Sale and Rent.

LOANS ON HELENA REAL ESTATE.

E.S. French & Co
ROOMS 11 and 11½
Pittsburg Block.

Ming's Opera House.

JOHN MAGUIRE, MANAGER.

DANIEL E. BANDMANN'S

Shakspearian Festival Company.

MONDAY, Dec. 23.

TUESDAY, Dec. 24.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 25.

THURSDAY, Dec. 26.

FRIDAY, Dec. 27.

SATURDAY, Dec. 28.

SUNDAY, Dec. 29.

RICHARD III

Reserve sale for Subscribers of Guarantee Sale, opens Friday morning. The regular Reserve Sale to others than subscribers. Saturday morning at 10 o'clock at the new store, Bailey block, Helena, Mont.

The sale is to be held on Dec. 29th.

Proposals for Lighting the Streets of the City for one year from Jan. 1, 1890, will be received at the office of the undersigned, room 8, Holter block, Helena, Mont.

Proposals should state the candle-power and price of each light.

By order of the City Council.

A. C. BOTKIN, City Clerk.

Dated Helena, Mont., Dec. 16, 1889.

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120 feet S. E cor. Broadway and Alta.
L. t 11, Block 425 near cor. Warren and Tenth Avenue.
100x137 feet cor. Warren and Eleventh Avenue.
100 feet on Main street, between Lawrence and Eleventh Avenue.
100 feet Main and Sixteenth Avenue.
50 feet Main, near cor. Lyndale